

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)

Monday, September 14, 2020

MINUTES

Members/Alternates: Lisa Adams, Kathleen Bates, Jay Couture, Tamme Dustin, Peter Marshall, Dawn McKinney, Paula Minnehan, Sarah Morrison, Kara Nickulas, Ken Norton, Ronnieann Rakoski, Marie Ramas, MD, Nancy Rollins, Karen Rosenberg, Mel Spierer, Kristine Stoddard, Carolyn Virtue, Nichole VonDette, Michelle Winchester, Heather Young

Excused: Jonathan Routhier, Holly Stevens

DHHS: Henry Lipman, Alyssa Cohen, Sarah Finne, DMD, Shirley Iacopino, Dawn Landry, Leslie Melby,

Guests: Scott Westover, Nicole Tower, Josh Krintzman, Nicole St. Hilaire, Lauren LaRochelle, Rich Segal, Jasmine Harris, Isaiah Anderson

Review/Approval, Carolyn Virtue, Chair

August 10, 2020 Minutes: M/S/A

August 27, 2020 Minutes: Motion to approve. Four members not present at meeting abstained - Stoddard, Rosenberg, Rollins, Ramas. There being no quorum, the vote is postponed to October 5, 2020.

Managed Care Open Enrollment, Shirley Iacopino, Medicaid Managed Care Operations

Nearly 2,000 members switched health plans during the August open enrollment period compared to 1,000 in prior years. Approximately 3,500 newly eligible Medicaid members enrolled. There were approximately 6,300 enrollment transactions during open enrollment.

By the end of the open enrollment, there were 195,180 individual members among the 3 plans:

AmeriHealth Caritas – 24,457; NHHF – 80,417; Well Sense – 90,306.

Current Medicaid Enrollment: As of Sept 7, 2020, enrollment increased nearly 12% from 178,000 to 198,993 since the onset of the public health emergency (PHE).

Enrollment	March 19, 2020	September 2020	% increase
Granite Advantage	51,477	61,781	20%
Standard Medicaid	126,200	137,212	8.7%
Total	178,000	198,993	12%

The enrollment increase of 21,000 members is covered under the SFY 2021 MCO contract price limitation, which provides for an average of 215,000 members per month. To date the MCO program is trending about 2,000 individuals below a projected growth of 43,000 members.

There are 696 individuals are currently eligible under the new temporary COVID testing eligibility category. This category ends the last day of the last month of the PHE, currently set for 10/22/20, unless extended.

Spending trends: The Medicaid Director reviewed a high level impact of COVID on spending trends.

Compared to 2019 for the last quarter of SFY 2020:

- Maternity services are slightly higher.
- Hospital inpatient, emergency, and outpatient services are lower.
- Outpatient and professional other are lower.
- No changes in pharmacy (18-20% of MCM spend), mental health (capitated), home health, personal care.
- MCO program – April had the largest reduction; 2020 spend was \$10 million below 2019 historic spend. The program spend in June was much closer back to pre-PHE levels.

Adult Dental Update, Sarah Finne, DMD, Medicaid Dental Director

The adult dental benefit remains in the law enacted in 2019. Funding is a budget priority for FY 2022-2023. Providers and members need to understand the difference in benefits covered by the State Plan and AmeriHealth.

Scott Westover and Nicole St. Hilaire, AmeriHealth Caritas

AmeriHealth has offered an adult dental benefit since Sept 2019. There are currently two eligible dentists, and efforts are underway to expand to other areas of the state. To date, 6,896 services provided to 1,059 unique members. AmeriHealth is trying to add providers to its network, especially in the western NH. COVID has slowed down enrollment. Contact Nicole St. Hilaire if aware of problems or interested dentists.

Dr. Finne echoed the need for dentists, especially oral surgeons.

Department Updates, Henry Lipman, Medicaid Director

- **DME:** Meeting held with DME providers to clarify the MCO contract, DME fee schedule, and protections relative to sole source. Will continue to meet quarterly with DME providers. Next meeting: October 29, 2020.
- **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation:** New transportation vendors will start: Sept 1 - NHHF (MTM); Oct 1 - DHHS (One Call); June 1 - WellSense (One Call). AmeriHealth continues to use CTS. DHHS is closely monitoring transportation to address issues. Providers are concerned about dealing with multiple vendors. Brooke Blanchard, Director of Medicaid Enterprise Development, is the lead on transportation. C Virtue noted that non-emergency transportation is essential, as some appointments cannot be delayed, e.g. dialysis. Dialysis is being addressed and prioritized by DHHS to ensure appropriate measures are taken.
- **1135 Waivers/COVID-19:** A listing of all flexibilities under COVID was sent to MCAC. If the PHE period is not extended, waivers will end Oct 22, 2020. Waivers implemented early on are alternate care settings, temporary waiver enrollment requirements, and telehealth capabilities. Criminal background checks for CFI was cited as the cause for delays. This will be taken back to the Division of Long Terms Supports and Services.

K Rosenberg asked about accommodations for people with disabilities for hearings. How is that being addressed in light of the need to minimize physical contact. The 1135 waiver extends timeframes. The Administrative Appeals Unit will respond to this concern.

- **Medicaid COVID-19 Testing Group Guidance**

Alyssa Cohen is developing guidance with the Department's Medical Director. There are gray areas, e.g. asymptomatic testing. Provider groups have been consulted. Updated guidance is posted on the Department's website - <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/medicaid/documents/testgroup090420.pdf>

The Department is seeking clarification from CMS on how the additional unemployment benefit affects Medicaid eligibility. Under maintenance of effort (MOE), no one loses eligibility and does not currently affect new eligibility determinations.

- **MOAD Implementation September 1**

MEAD was extended for individuals age 65+ as of Sept 1. In September 27 individuals will transition into MOAD with possibly another 8 through the end of 2020. Members should contact Dawn Landry (Dawn.Landry@dhhs.nh.gov) if interested in working on the MOAD rule.

- He-E 802, Nursing Facility Services – Final Proposal. JLCAR meeting Sept 17, 9 am. C Virtue noted the MCAC objected to one section of the rule and will attend JLCAR to address. Any further objections should be sent to her prior to 9/17/20.

- Concerns were raised by members about the viability of the scheduled Medicaid rate increase. There is a large revenue shortfall, raising concerns about previous administrations' elimination of rate increases by executive order. The budget document for the agency phase of the budget should be available Oct. 1.
- Status of MCAC request to Governor re: mask mandate. No response to date. Will check with Governor's office for response.

Agenda Items for October 5, 2020

- Status and strategies for the end of PHE
- Effect of stimulus payments on Medicaid eligibility
- Medicaid Spend by eligibility category

Motion to adjourn: M/S/A